

Remarks and Arguments

Applicant notes that there is an inconsistency in the office communication dated February 8, 2006. In particular, page 1 of the communication indicates that it is a non-final action whereas page 7 indicates that the action is final. This office communication is the first response after a request for continued examination was filed. Since an amendment was filed with that request for continued examination and a new reference has been cited, applicant concludes that the reference to a final office action on page 7 is incorrect and that the action is non-final.

Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-21 and 23-25 have been presented for examination. Claims 1, 10-12, 17-19 and 23 have been amended. Claims 7, 16 and 22 have been canceled.

Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-21 and 23-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,748,555 (Teegan, previously cited) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,920,682 (Nguyen.) The examiner comments that the Teegan patent discloses the invention substantially as claimed, with the exception that it does not explicitly disclose a configuration notifier that generates configuration change events and forwards that event to an event service when any changes are made to the recited category list. However, the examiner asserts that the Nguyen reference discloses such a configuration notifier. Consequently, the examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Teegan and Nguyen in order to integrate the connected computer's monitoring activities.

The Teegan patent and its disclosure has been discussed in detail in a response to a previous office communication. As mentioned there, Teegan does not have any equivalents to the recited category list, one of which is located in each of a plurality of separate computers and all of which are kept "synchronized" by mechanisms in each configuration bean that generate and receive change events so that the lists contain the same entries even though changes are made to only one list.

Teegan discloses no configuration lists, or equivalents thereto, that require change events to keep the lists consistent. Instead, Teegan discloses software managers that monitor software objects. Each software manager contains a collector that receives events from a monitored software object. The events are then processed to generate "metrics" which can be used to generate alerts and can be provided to

administrators. The software managers can be arranged in a hierarchy so that metrics can be combined to generate “higher-level” events. The software managers are closely tied to the objects that they monitor and each software manager would be different. The outputs of the software managers can be collected by managers that are higher in the hierarchy, but specific events are combined to produce a unique output.

The examiner points to two sections of Teegan and asserts that these disclose the recited configuration lists. The first of these sections is Teegan column 11, lines 54-62. Here Teegan discloses that software managers contain an event collector, a log and an alerter. Of these three elements, only the log maintains a list of events, but it is a list of events that are received at that software manager. There is no disclosure that the logs in the software managers should be synchronized so that they all contain the same entries.

The examiner also points to Teegan, column 14, line 65, to column 15, line 17. This section of Teegan discusses grouping of metric information by activity. In particular, an activity identifier is associated with each notification so that notifications can be assigned to a particular activity when they arrive at a collector. However, there is no disclosure that activities are the same at all of the software managers or that the same activity is monitored at more than one software manager. Thus, notification grouping does not correspond to the category list as recited in the claims. For example, claim 1 recites, in lines 8-9, “a category list of selected events, wherein the category list contains the same events in all of the federated beans” Teegan does not disclose such a category list. Therefore, as the examiner notes, Teegan does not teach or disclose a configuration notifier that synchronizes the category lists because Teegan has no need for such a configuration notifier.

The Nguyen reference discloses a multi-user server architecture that is optimized for distributing real-time application data. The server registers a set of event notifiers with a name server and application programs locate the event notifiers using the name server. The application programs then register with the event notifiers to receive events generated by the server. This structure allows the application program to operate independently from the server. Thus, Nguyen discloses a notification system in which events are supplied to notifiers and then received by application programs.

The examiner proposes to combine the teachings of Nguyen with those of Teegan. The teachings of Nguyen might be used to convey notifications from the monitored objects to the software managers. However, the combination of Nguyen and Teegan cannot teach or suggest a system in which category lists that are the same in each computer are kept consistent by notifying each category list of changes made to any one list since neither reference discloses such lists. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-5, 7-14 and 16-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is hereby respectfully traversed.

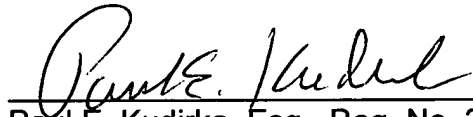
In order to make it clear that the category list is replicated in all configuration beans, and that the change notifications update all lists when one list is changed, the independent claims have been amended to recite this fact. Claim 1 is illustrative. The limitations of claim 7 have been incorporated into it so that it now recites "... a category list of selected events, wherein the category list contains the same events in all of the federated beans ... a configuration notifier that generates configuration change events and forwards the generated configuration change events to the event service when any changes are made to the category list ... a configuration monitor that receives configuration change events from the event service and updates the category list in response thereto so that category lists in all of the federated beans contain the same events even though a change is made to a category list in only one bean..." Therefore, it is clear that all beans contain the same configuration information and that this information is kept consistent by means of the configuration notifier and the configuration monitor. Independent claims 10, 19 have been amended in a similar fashion by incorporating the limitations of claims 16 and 22 (which, accordingly, have been canceled). Claim 23 has also been amended to incorporate limitations that parallel those in claims 1, 10 and 19.

Claims 2-5 and 8-9 are dependent on amended claim 1 and incorporate the limitations thereof. Therefore, they distinguish over the cited reference in the same manner as amended claim 1. Similarly, claims 11-14 and 17-18 are dependent on amended claim 10 and incorporate the limitations thereof. Therefore, they distinguish over the cited reference in the same manner as amended claim 10. Claims 20-21 are dependent on amended claim 19 and incorporate the limitations thereof. Therefore, they distinguish over the cited reference in the same manner as amended claim 19.

Finally, claims 24-25 are dependent on amended claim 23 and incorporate the limitations thereof. Therefore, they distinguish over the cited reference in the same manner as amended claim 23.

In light of the forgoing amendments and remarks, this application is now believed in condition for allowance and a notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. If the examiner has any further questions regarding this amendment, he is invited to call applicants' attorney at the number listed below. The examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or direct any payment under 37 C.F.R. §§1.17, 1.16 to Deposit Account number 02-3038.

Respectfully submitted



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